

# International PolarTEACHERS conference

## “How to use polar science in your classroom”

### Oslo, June 6-7, 2010

Education has been an important and fully integrated part of The International Polar Year. A few days before the big IPY Oslo Science Conference, teachers and other educators were given a chance to share their experiences during their very own conference, the PolarTEACHERS conference.

The conference invited specialist from different fields to share their knowledge with teachers and educators from all over the world. There were 115 participants from 21 countries, 22 speakers/organisers and among these were 97 females and 40 males.

The conference focused on four of the main themes in the International Polar Year:

Activity 1: Albedo

Activity 2: Ice and Snow

Activity 3: Earth through time

Activity 4: People in the North

Another main purpose with the conference was to let the teachers meet young scientists, therefore we organised the conference together with APECS. The rest of the week they all participated in OSC2010.

Below are some glimpses from the conference:



Patricia from Portugal and Andrès from Spain are investigating the effects on water density and the formation of ocean currents.  
Photo: Kerstin Mertens/Samfoto



Inga Marianne Lango demonstrates how to make the traditional sami sausage marfu, made of reindeer blood and intestines.  
Photo: Kerstin Mertens/Samfoto



Tomas from Czech Republic, Sylvia from the U.S., Catalina from Spain and Angela from the U.S. are investigating the concept of albedo.  
Photo: Kerstin Mertens/Samfoto

The delegation from the Sacha Republic posing together with a group of young reindeer herders, representing the project Reindeer herders ambassadors.

Photo: Kerstin Mertens/Samfoto



Accompanied by the scenic view of Oslo, 250 polar teachers and early career scientists from The PolarTEACHERS conference and APECS workshop went on a cruise on The Oslo Fjord with the ship "S/S Lady Mack".

Their final destination was the home of polar explorer Roald Amundsen, in Svartskog by the Oslo Fjord.



Photo: John Petter Reinertsen/ Samfoto

Spirits were high on board the "Lady Mack".



Photo: John Petter Reinertsen/ Samfoto

Silje Hegg on her self-made flute and Ingebjørg H. Bratland on vocals spellbound the audience with Norwegian folk music



Photo: John Petter Reinertsen/ Samfoto

Olav Orheim tells the tale of Amundsens departure to the South Pole.

#### No one knew

Olav Orheim told the tale of how Amundsen, after crossing the Northwest Passage, had made plans to go to the North Pole and explore the North Polar Basin. Amundsen had problems raising funds for the departure, and upon hearing in 1909 that first Frederick Cook and the Robert Peary claimed the Pole, he decided to reroute to Antarctica.

#### Some comments from teachers after the conference:

"It was a great experience and really a model of how teachers can participate in large science conferences. I had a wonderful time at the conference and in Oslo."

"The agenda that combined plenary lectures with workshops was very efficient and comfortable. I have got ideas that could be used at teacher training in my country. We also got materials and information about web sources. All in all - great experience which I greatly appreciated and I thank the organizers for it."

"Thank you all for an amazing experience. Most especially was the validation of being a wanted part of science enhancement at the K-12 level. Words are never enough, the food, the planning, the organization, the camaraderie, the opportunity to not only observe but participate in an international science venue, priceless! THANK YOU!"

# Agenda

Grey marked sessions are together with APECS in Aud. 1 Georg Sverdrups House  
 Teacher conference in Helga Enghs House

	Saturday June 5
19.00	Informal welcoming reception BBQ at Research Council of Norway– mentor matches

	Sunday June 6
09.00 - 09.15	Welcoming Remarks – APECS Representative Norwegian Research Council/IPY Norway Representative
09.15 – 09.55	Urgency of Polar Research <i>David Carlson, IPY Headquarter</i>
09.55 – 10.15	Introduction to Polar Resource Book <i>Karen Edwards, International IPY Program Office</i>
10.15 – 10.35	Break Teachers moving to Helga Enghs House
10.35 – 10.45	Introduction to activity sessions <i>Louise Huffman, ANDRILL University of Nebraska</i>
10.45 – 11.15	<b>Keynote speaker theme 1</b>  The role of albedo in climate research <i>Mary Albert, Dartmouth College</i>
11.15 – 11.45	Coffee break and finding your session

Activity 1: Albedo	Seminarrom 231
Activity 2: Ice and Snow	Seminarrom 232
Activity 3: Earth through time	Seminarrom 234
Activity 4: People in the North	Kurssal 282, East block Physics building

11.45 – 12.30	Activity session			
	1 Group A	2 Group B	3 Group C	4 Group D
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch			
13.30 – 14.15	Polar Lows - the hurricanes of the Arctic? <i>Jón Egill Kristjánsson, THORPEX, University of Oslo</i>			
14.15– 14.45	<b>Keynote speaker theme 2</b>  The role of polar ice in global climate processes <b>Anthony Worby</b> <small>AAD (Ice, Ocean, Atmosphere and Climate program Australian Antarctic Division) and ACE CRC (Antarctic Climate &amp; Ecosystems Cooperative Research Centre)</small>			
14.45 – 15.00	Break			
15.00 –15.45	Activity session			
	1 Group D	2 Group A	3 Group B	4 Group C
15.45 – 16.15	Break			
16.15 – 17.00	How does IPCC work? <i>Cecilie Mauritzen, The Norwegian Meteorological Institute</i>			
	Travel to Oslo harbour			
18.30 – 23.00	Cruise on The Oslo Fjord for all participants at the teacher conference and the APECS workshop (warm clothes)			



	Monday June 7			
09.00 – 09.05	Announcements			
09.05 – 10.00	Possible Impacts of Global Warming on Polar Bears? <i>Jenny Bytingsvik, BearHealth NTNU Trondheim</i>  Working and communicating with northern communities <i>Dominique Henri, Oxford University</i>			
10.00 – 10.15	<b>Break</b> Teachers moving to Helga Enghs House			
10.15 – 10.45	<b>Keynote speaker theme 3</b> Past Climate Changes Read from Polar Rock Archives <i>Ross Powell, Northern IL University</i>			
10.45 – 11.00	Break			
11.00 – 11.45	Activity session			
	1 Group C	2 Group D	3 Group A	4 Group B
11.45 – 13.00	Lunch			
13.00 – 13.30	<b>Keynote speaker theme 4: People in The North</b> Different terms for snow and ice? Reindeer herders & climate change <i>Svein Mathisen, EALAT, Sámi University College</i>			
13.30 – 13.45	Break			
13.45 – 14.30	Activity session			
	1 Group B	2 Group C	3 Group D	4 Group A
14.30 – 14.45	Break			
14.45– 15.30	Malaysian Antarctic Program <i>Azizan Abu Samah, University of Malaya</i>			
15.30 – 16.00	Coffee break with a sandwich			
16.00 – 16.30	Arctic Food Web <i>Nathalie Morata, University of Tromsø</i>			
16.30 – 17.00	Connecting research and teaching: Engaging northern communities and schools in university research and education initiatives <i>Gita J. Laidler, Carleton University</i>			
17.00 – 17.15	Closing remarks			
20.00 –	Conference Icebreaker			

## EVENTS DURING THE WEEK

1. **Meet with your mentors**

Each group make their own timetable

2. **Monday**

20:00 [Icebreaker Reception](#)

*Oslo City Hall, G.O. Sars and Sami Tent Lavvo*

3. **Tuesday**

The APECS Reception at 5:30

Conference centre Lillestroem

4. **Wednesday**

17:30 [Fram Barbeque](#)

*Fram Museum - <http://www.fram.museum.no/en/>*

Start from Oslo Harbour

5. **Thursday**

No scheduled event in the evening

6. **Friday**

**20.00** Closing dinner for PolarTEACHERS Conference participants. Open House for APECS after 23.00.

[Josefine Vertshus](#), Josefines gate 16 (two minutes from Cochs)